off our backs
a women's newsjournal

Cinderella
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I am a woman of color,
still I am a woman.
I am a woman of large weight
or maybe, I am a woman
of small weight
still I am a woman.
I am a woman of looks,
pretty, ugly or plain,
still I am a woman.
I am a woman of class,
lower, upper, and middle,
still I am a woman.
I am a woman, who deals
with prejudice issues in my
everyday life and also trys
to grow away from these issues
Can we all all help create
this positive change within
yourselves,
For I am always a woman
of color, weight, class,
I AM A WOMAN

sumica midcalf
cleveland heights, ohio

August 28

Changes
is like a whirlwind coming into
your life so fast that you can't
touch it or hold it
Changes
is rebirth of self as a
new cycle begins,
Changes
is a challenge for something
strong to arise from you and
others,
Changes is a choice of
growth for the positive or negative
Changes
is getting in touch with
oneself on a Higher level;
Change
is me trusting the spirit
so I can have peace in my
life

sumica midcalf
incest survivor

The Living Tree
a woman's response to Shel Silverstein's
"The Giving Tree"

Once there was a huge tree
and she loved herself, as well as others.
And every day a male would come and her would annoy her.
This male wanted to suck the sap from the tree,
and this infuriated and disgusted the tree.

One day the tiny male came to the tree and said,
"I want to take your leaves and your apples and
pretend that they are mine. I want to cut your limbs
off so I can make money by selling your parts. I want
to cut you down and then sit my butt on your dead stump.
And I want you to love and crave all of these things that
I will do to you."

The tree chuckled for quite awhile before she answered,
but finally she replied,
"Of course I will not do any of these things! I want you to
discover how to use your own limbs, your own energy to live,
Little Parasite. Maybe then you will be able to give, and
will recognize the evil of your demands."

The small male spat on the tree and said, "Bitch."
But the tree didn't even notice.
She was busy enjoying life.
And she was very, very happy.

The Beginning

natalie isaac
liberty, indiana

Cinderella

What could
anything so A-
merican as a
pumpkin have to do with
anything so Euro-
pean as a fairy tale?

electioneering and poll
booths and stump thump-
ing kissing babies con-
ventions and loud comm-
ercials full of self-pr-
aise blabbed and babbl-
ed to millions.....

what have these to do with
the dark, secret counsels of
princes, decisions made by
dagger, the setting aside of
queens? Would Cinderella
reach middle age? No media
scandal; just a prince's
right to approve or reject.

On that fatal night,
crouched in the ragged garden
with lizards and mice,
did her hand touch that
golden ball,
hidden black under black
night leaves,
and did she divine for a moment
how much more dignified
it would be
to run for office?

theresa hemminger
grandville, michigan

Sue Fink's True Life Adventure

cont. from p. 18

have always known they are.
South of Mexico they got
trouble
They want me down there on the
double
But what kind of a fool would
risk spilling his blood
So some big firm can plant
coffee in someone else's mud?
("I Want to Kill in a Popular
War" c. Sue Fink 1988)

Whether it's Central America, Vietnam, Ireland or Beirut war is senseless and meaningless, a waste of courage, blood and lives. "I Want to Kill in a Popular War" makes it clear.

Other songs on Sue Fink's True Life Adventure are as interesting, well-written and musically appealing as the ones described above. "Wake Me" talks about opening to trust, touch and passion. "The Way We Planned It" is about having everything a couple planned and dreamed of, everything but the honesty of love in the relationship itself. "The Last to Know" is about the moment of realization that there is someone else, that "It's time to face the Truth." The title cut, "True Life Adventure" asks, "Are you ready, ready/ready to let go?" Are you ready to face reality, to take risks, to make changes in consciousness and awareness in your life? Each song presents a character or situation of that realization, that moment of change. It took a brave and honest woman to write these songs, for a community hopefully brave enough to understand and appreciate them.

Sue Fink's True Life Adventure is newly available on CD or cassette from women's bookstores or Ladyslipper. When this dynamic woman comes to town on her fall tours, or performs at the festivals, don't miss her. [ed. note: Sue Fink will appear at the Northeast Women's Music Retreat - NEWMR on Labor Day weekend.] Sue Fink has been an overnight-success-waiting-to-happen for years, and True Life Adventure is the album to do it for her at last. This is a full, rich album with something in it for everyone, sophisticated, high-quality women's music.

by diane stein

by etana

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